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me informed. There are two other physicians whom I have not as yet seen. There is, however, no sickness here at the present time.

Vaccination seems to have been neglected here.

I wish to be advised how far the various grading and track gangs of the Matamoros extension of the National Railroad are from this point, so that I may form some idea as to when to look out for that undesirable element that is sure to come with them.

Next week I hope to be able to give some definite report as to Rio Grande City and Camargo.

JULY 7, 1904.

Mr. Maris, collector of customs at Brownsville, arrived here this morning, and after conference he says that to station inspectors at Salineño, Rio Grande, and at a point opposite San Miguel, he will have to get special authority from the Department. The regular inspector at Roma can attend to the work at that point. He will wire for authority to-day and will let me know the result, of which I shall advise you immediately.

I should like to have some specific instructions from you to give these inspectors.

I have met the county authorities, and they have agreed to lend me such help as will be necessary, in the way of inspectors and laborers, to clean up the streets and destroy the mosquitoes. This action will be officially and formally taken by them at a regular meeting of the county commissioners to-day.

As soon as the work is well under way here, I shall be in position to do the same thing in all the towns and ranches along the river in this section.

House-to-house inspection—Sanitary measures adopted.

JULY 18, 1904.

In company with the sheriff, county physician, and an inspector appointed by the county authorities, I have just completed a house-to-house inspection of this town.

The local authorities have ordered all premises cleaned and the removal of all hogs from the town limits. Special locations have been designated for the dumping of garbage on the northwestern side of the town. The prevailing winds are from the southeast.

As Rio Grande City is not an incorporated town, there are no sanitary regulations and there is no scavenger service; but the authorities are now arranging for scavenger carts, under the control of the county health officer, to carry on the work by individual contract with the inhabitants.

The following rule has been established in regard to water barrels: No water is to remain in barrel over forty eight hours, and no new water is to be put in until barrel is thoroughly cleaned and dried (mouth downward) for at least half an hour. This regulation will be enforced by inspectors among the water carriers. All cisterns have been oiled, a pint of oil being used for each cistern. Many owners of cisterns have ordered pumps and covers for their cisterns, which will render oiling unnecessary.

Exclusive of bowel trouble among children, I found only 3 cases of sickness in my rounds, including 1 case of intermittent and 1 of continued fever. The malarial cases have been put under mosquito bars.

Inspection of Brownsville—Sanitary conditions.

Acting Assistant Surgeon Lowry reports, through Passed Assistant Surgeon Richardson, as follows:

LAREDO, TEX., *July 19, 1904.*

I proceeded on the morning of July 9 to Brownsville, Tex., arriving there on the evening of July 11.

On the following morning I made a house-to-house inspection of the Mexican quarter of the town, discovering 5 cases of sickness—1 of typhoid fever, 1 of traumatism, and 3 of measles.

An examination of the burying ground showed 9 newly-made graves, which number coincides with the number of deaths recorded in the city clerk's office for month of July up to date of investigation.

The physicians of Brownsville, Drs. J. F. Combes, J. Combes, W. Layton, Saunders, and Koyle of the United States Army, stated positively that they had no knowledge of the existence of any yellow fever in Brownsville, and willingly showed all cases of fever under their charge, which were chiefly typhoid fever and measles. Both of these diseases have been epidemic in Brownsville for the past four months. I examined, in company with attending physicians, altogether 24 cases.

The cause of death in cases which were reported as having died in the same house suddenly, was, according to statement of attending physicians, in one case senility, and in the other measles.

According to the city records the mortality for June was 41; in 13 cases, chiefly among young children, cause of death not given; 7 from tuberculosis, 6 from measles, 1 each from typhoid fever and malarial fever, the remainder, 13, from miscellaneous causes.

Matamoros, on the opposite side of the river, about 1 mile up the river from Brownsville, shows a mortality of 35, principally from typhoid fever and measles, during the month of June.

The sanitary conditions in Brownsville are bad in the extreme, and neither water nor sewerage system exists. All water used is either rain water (cisterns) or river water, which is handled and stored in barrels. Mosquitoes, both *stegomyia* and *culex*, are plentiful. Cess-pools are used for the disposal of filth in better class houses, while the poorer classes throw all refuse in the streets and alleys.

It is not my belief that yellow fever exists in Brownsville at the present time, but upon the completion of the Monterey-Matamoros branch of the National Mexico Railroad both the towns of Brownsville and Matamoros will be extremely liable to infection; and, on account of the laborers crossing to and from the farms along the river, an efficient quarantine will be very difficult.

I returned, leaving Brownsville the morning of July 14, reaching Laredo the evening of July 15.